

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /092 W  
-----111547 290045Z /13

R 271810Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO USUN NEW YORK 777  
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
SECSTATE WASHDC 6701

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5797

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNSYG WALDHEIM TO ARGENTINA

REF: (A) USUN NEW YORK 2986 (B) BUENOS AIRES 5595

1. EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE POSITIVE RESPONSE SHOWN BY UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BUFFUM REGARDING THE SECRETARIAT'S INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE HUMAN RIGHTS THEMES DURING THE SYG'S VISIT IN AUGUST. AN INVITATION TO THE IAHC TO BRIEF WALDHEIM WOULD NOT ONLY GREATLY HELP TO LEND THE UN'S PRESTIGE AND WEIGHT TO THE ISSUE BUT WOULD ENHANCE IAHC'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE HEMISPHERE AND LEGITIMIZE WALDHEIM'S ENCOURAGEMENT FOR HOST COUNTRIES TO ADMIT COMMISSION VISITS.

2. THE MISSING PERSONS QUESTION IN ARGENTINA IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE. ESTIMATES OF THE MISSING VARY CONSIDERABLY. THE NATURE OF THE DISAPPEARANCES--USUALLY LATE NIGHT ABDUCTIONS BY PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE SECURITY FORCES--AND THE LACK OF REPORTED GOVERNMENT FOLLOW-UP--POINT AN ACCUSATIVE FINGER AT THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS SO FAR FAILED TO BRING DISAPPEARANCES TO AN END.

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3. IN ADDITION TO THE ISSUE OF CONTINUING DISAPPEARANCES AND OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE AFFECTED FAMILIES IS WHETHER THE GOA WILL EVER ACKNOWLEDGE AND IDENTIFY THE THOUSANDS ALREADY "DISAPPEARED" (INCLUDING THE DEAD). WALDHEIM SHOULD KNOW OF THE RECENT FLURRY HERE WHEN THE NAVY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD CALLED ON THE JUNTA TO

PUBLISH LISTS OF THOSE KILLED IN BATTLES WITH SECURITY FORCES WHICH MANY BELIEVED COULD REVEAL THE FATE OF MANY OF THOSE REPORTED MISSING. THE ARMY REFUSED TO DO SO, DECLARING THAT ALL IDENTIFIABLE BODIES OF PERSONS KILLED IN CONFRONTATIONS HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THEIR FAMILIES.

4. OUR BASIC AND INSISTENT THEME HERE EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW. CONSCIENTIOUS ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES ON THE BOOKS AND ARGENTINA'S INTERNATIONAL PLEDGES TO UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BRING AN END TO THE MOST REPREHENSIBLE OF ABUSES: ABDUCTIONS, DISAPPEARANCES, TORTURE, SUMMARY EXECUTION AND PROLONGED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL. IN ORDER TO DIMINISH THE LIKELIHOOD OF JUST ANOTHER "DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF," THE SYG MAY WISH TO OPEN HIS CONVERSATION BY ACKNOWLEDGING TO ARGENTINE OFFICIALS THE TERRIBLE ABUSES COMMITTED BY TERRORISTS AGAINST INNOCENT ARGENTINES AND FOREIGNERS. HE MIGHT THEN NOTE THE OFFICIAL ASSERTIONS THAT THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY WON AND OBSERVE THAT THE RAPID RETURN TO THE RULE OF LAW WOULD PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO CLAIM ITS VICTORY AGAINST TERRORISM AND ANARCHY.

5. THE SYG MIGHT ALSO EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO GOA FOR ITS COOPERATION WITH UNHCR'S REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS. (GOA IS TAKING STEPS TO GRANT RESIDENCY AND WORK PERMITS TO SOME OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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THOUSANDS OF CHILEAN REFUGEES; OTHER THOUSANDS ARE BEING RESETTLED ABROAD THROUGH UNHCR'S GOOD OFFICES.) WALDHEIM MIGHT THEN NOTE THAT HE UNDERSTANDS A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES) HAVE ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ARGENTINE STATE OF SEIGE DETAINEES UNDER ARGENTINA'S RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM AND RECORD HIS WISH THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL PROCEED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS THE FORMER. THE COULD CONCLUDE THIS LINE OF THOUGHT BY GENTLY SUGGESTING GOA MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL AGENCY ASSIST WITH THE RIGHT OF OPTION CASES, IN THE SAME WAY THE UNHCR WORKS WITH REFUGEE CASES. SUCH AN AGENCY COULD SERVE AS A CLEARINHOUSE AND CENTRALIZED POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MANY EMBASSIES INVOLVED. (FYI. THE US AND OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS HAVE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO INTEREST GOA IN ACCEPTING THE SERVICES OF ICEM (INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN MIGRATION) TO COUNSEL, SCREEN, DOCUMENT, RECOMMEND AND ARRANGE ONWARD TRAVEL OF RIGHT OF OPTION CASES. GOA REJECTED ICEM EARLIER THIS YEAR AND CRITICIZED US PRESSURE ON THIS MATTER, FACTORS WHICH SHOULD NOT FIGURE IN WALDHEIM'S CONVERSATIONS.)  
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## Message Attributes

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